

Asheville Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 7 July 2015

Attending:

Committee Members: Dave Erb, Tom Tomlin, Bruce Emory, Adam Charnack, Julie Mayfield

City/ART Staff: Sean Spiller, Barb Mee, Rose Christian

Community Members: Stefano Longinotti, Derek Hennessee, Vicki Meath, Diane Allen, Tammy Haynie, Jim Palkovic

3:34 pm - Opening of Meeting

Julie opened the meeting. Members introduced themselves.

2 June 2015 Minutes - Bruce moved to approve, Tom seconded. Unanimous approval.

3:37 pm - Public Comment I

Stefano Longinotti depends on the system and his bicycle, particularly appreciates Sunday and holiday service. He has experienced problems with not being allowed to bring paint on the bus at the ART station; checked with Yuri, who did not find any rule prohibiting it; requests clarification of the rule, if any. Requests a shelter at the Merrimon Ingles. Suggests advertising on buses to raise funds.

Vicki Meath had heard complaints that E1.5 and S2 had been out of service sporadically, learned from drivers that service had been suspended for several hours, but no notification seems to have gone out through IRide or other channels. People's Voice also tested the relative efficacy of various complaint channels: IRide, phone, ART center booth, and comment cards (cards weren't actually there during the test period). IRide seemed to be the only one which got response. She requested improvement of all of the communications channels (and the record keeping processes which could allow problems to be addressed). Julie requested that Staff revisit its earlier decision to use only Nextbus (and not IRide) for temporary service interruptions.

4:01 pm – TC Experiences Riding the Bus

Adam experienced an inordinately circuitous detour on W4 due to inability to cross lanes on the freeway; hopes that it wouldn't happen in the future. Has also experienced disruption by obviously mentally ill passenger, wonders about policy regarding driver interaction with difficult passengers. Diane Allen clarified that drivers frequently need to engage with disruptive passengers in order to de-escalate the situation (or avoid escalating it); also clarified that the circuitous route was the normal routing.

4:08 pm – New Business

TC Openings:

Brooke German will be leaving Asheville in November. Notice for open seats went out today. Dave and Tom are term limited at the end of the year; Julie's term is also up at the end of the year, but she may be eligible for more time due to her role on MMTC (though she would also be ineligible to serve if she is elected to Council). Tom has volunteered to serve an extra year, if necessary.

4:12 pm – Old Business

Fare Free Zone Update:

TC recommends that Fare Free Zone discussion be part of broader, long term Transit Master Plan fare negotiations, but that Staff also address the need for a fare increase that could take effect in July 2016.

TC Goals:

Super Service -

Adam and Ed should have update at August meeting.

Increasing Funding -

White paper on funding multimodal improvements is underway; draft due in August or September. Julie and Bruce requested that TC express support of the general document when it becomes available (presuming it's acceptable), but leave some of the fine detail up to MMTC, due to the schedule of the final decisions.

Marketing and Education -

Brooke's departure will leave a need for someone to take up the Facebook page.

MMTC Update:

MMTC held planning retreat. Goal areas include Funding Advocacy, Communications & Engagement, Safety, Policy Analysis (especially regarding upcoming updates of various master plans), and Improved Coordination with NCDOT.

Advertising Policy Update:

no report

4:22 pm – Staff Updates

Barb Mee gave update. JARC signals project underway. Watch for Me NC project training activities will happen 4 August at AB Tech. TC still very interested in being involved in drafting TMP Update.

Free fare day on Strive Not to Drive week doesn't seem to have any appreciable impact on ridership. Adam recommends that we not offer free fare next year, and apply any extra fare money to funding full service on the holiday with the highest ridership (Good Friday, this year). Drivers felt that advance notification was lacking this year (they were notified only a day or two in advance).

4:53 pm - Public Comment II

Derek Hennessee requested clarification of process surrounding TMP fare updates and Fare Free Zone.

4:56 pm – Agenda Items for Next Meeting

advertising, TMP RFP, TC openings

4:57 pm – Meeting Adjourned